

Mississippi State UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

October 13, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Mississippi State University is pleased to respond to your letter of July 27, 2006, requesting for information on federal appropriations for research and other activities (service/outreach and education) in universities.

We have a long-standing tradition of commitment to education and have been teaching students for almost 130 years. Our outreach programs are making a difference to farmers, families, communities, and industry. Examples of the benefits of our work with industry include the impact our Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems is having on automobile and truck manufacturers, as well as first- and second-tier suppliers, and the impact our aerospace engineering department has within the aerospace industry. Our research programs are critical to Mississippi State University's mission of service to the state and nation.

We are proud of the achievements of our outstanding faculty who are doing so much to increase knowledge and to address real problems facing the state, the region, and the nation and to enhance economic development in Mississippi, which has one of the highest rates of poverty and one of the lowest per capita incomes in the United States.

Mississippi State University has significant strengths in areas of national importance, along with programs focused on regional and state issues. Examples of our programs include:

- Energy research to reduce America's dependency on imported oil, with research ranging from nuclear legacy, through coal and natural gas, to bio-based fuels and energy efficiency;
- Research in agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry, together with extension programs to enhance the profitability of small- and medium-sized farms and ranches while improving the quality of the American food supply;

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
October 13, 2006
Page 2

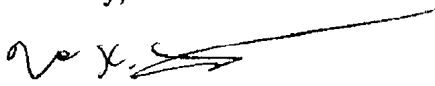
- Research to enhance U.S. defense, improve the safety of American military personnel in combat zones, and increase homeland security;
- Research on health issues including policy, obesity, pain, environmental toxicants, food safety, and AIDS; and
- Research on veterinary medicine, including vaccines.

The research programs of Mississippi State University span the spectrum from cutting edge fundamental research, to applied research that creates new technology and improves American competitiveness, to adaptive research. Our research is being commercialized, in many cases, by spin-off companies from the university or partner companies in Mississippi. This is making a tremendous difference to the development of a high technology/high salary economy.

We are very appreciative of the support for our research, teaching, and outreach programs by the federal and state governments. In particular, we are indebted to Congress for its support. Mississippi State University's research is funded by the following sources: federal funds (competitive, cooperative agreements, or federal initiatives), foundations, companies, agricultural and forestry organizations, and state and local governments. Our researchers work closely with program managers of federal agencies to ensure complete accountability.

Thank you for all that you do for the nation.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Foglesong
President